

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00153 092152Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1331
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
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UNCLAS QUEBEC 0153

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: PQ'S DEFINITION OF SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION DELAYED
BY FEDERAL ELECTION

1. PRESS REPORTS QUOTE PIERRE DE BELLEFEUILLE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AS SAYING THAT THE GOQ WILL MAKE PUBLIC ITS FORMAL SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION PLAN ONLY AFTER THE FEDERAL ELECTION, IN ORDER THAT THE PLAN NOT BECOME ISSUE IN THE CAMPAIGN. DE BELLEFEUILLE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD CHANGE ITS MIND IF THE ELECTION WERE TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL THIS FALL; IF THAT WERE TO BE THE CASE, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT WELL DECIDE TO ISSUE "EXPLANATORY NOTES" DEFINING SOVEREIGNTY.

2. DE BELLEFEUILLE ALSO SAID THAT "TECHNICAL STUDIES" RELATED TO SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION WERE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY. TWO SPECIALIZED GROUPS ARE WORKING IN MINISTRY TO CONSIDER THE MONETARY AND FOREIGN POLICIES OF A SOVEREIGN QUEBEC. DE BELLEFEUILLE SAID THAT THE REPORT OF THESE TWO GROUPS WOULD BE OF A HIGHLY TECHNICAL NATURE AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE "OF INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC." WE PRESUME THAT HE MEANS BY THIS THAT THE REPORTS THEMSELVES WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, BUT THAT THEIR CONCLUSIONS WOULD APPEAR IN WHATEVER "EXPLANATORY NOTES" UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO PUBLICIZE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE PQ PROBABLY DOES WISH TO DENY AMMUNITION TO TRUDEAU FOR HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL EXPLANATION FOR THE DELAY IN MAKING PUBLIC THE DEFINITION OF SOVERNIGNTY-ASSOCIATION. EMBARRASSING DISAGREEMENT WITHIN CABINET AND PARTY OVER NATURE OF THIS OPTION HAS CERTAINLY BEEN AT LEAST

EQUALLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR PQ'S FAILURE DEFINE ITS REFERED OPTION.
MCNAMARA

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